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RAY LEWIS
Editor and Publisher

THE LITTLE PAPER WITH THE BIG IDEAS
"Easy to Digest"

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DIGEST INTERNATIONAL PRESS, "A SWELL JOB"

YE olde time Director of Publicity, for Universal Pictures Corporation, namely Paul Gulick, whose valued opinion we appreciate, writes to us in connection with The Digest International Press Film Service, through which we syndicate 500 leading newspapers in Canada, Great Britain and United States. His letter is as follows, "Dear Miss Lewis: I think you are doing a swell job in seeing that Canadian newspapers get interesting items about moving pictures, no matter whose pictures they are. Heretofore, they have only had material from the theatres and from press departments which of course are confined to the theatrical pages, whereas, your items get on the editorial page and commit the newspaper itself to a recognition of moving picture subjects".

WE HEAR FROM DAVID O. SELZNICK

DAVID O. SELZNICK, Selznick International Pictures, who did such an excellent job with "Little Lord Fauntleroy", writes us as follows, "Dear Miss Lewis: Thank you very much indeed for your kind letter of June 25th, and also for your very complimentary editorial on the award of the League of Nations Medal to 'Little Lord Fauntleroy'. I am so happy to know you thought highly of the picture and hope you will be able to recommend in the same manner my future product." Mr. Selznick has just finished "The Garden of Allah", with Marlene Dietrich and Charles Boyer, all in Technicolor. The story, stars and producer, are sufficient to prophecy another Selznick winner for United Artists.

"SAN FRANCISCO"

NOT content with "smashing" receipts all over the country, and running a neck-and-neck race with "Mutiny On The Bounty", at the Capitol, New York, "San Francisco" establishes a new summer record for the Capitol and will continue indefinitely at that theatre. It opens Friday, at Loew's, Toronto, and already the news of its success, lines up an expectant patronage, ready to defy a heat wave which has broken all records for Toronto.

Jeanette MacDonald, Clark Gable and Spencer Tracy is a combination of "three of a kind", sufficient to guarantee box-office draw and Entertainment values de luxe. Good news travels fast, and we hear that in 39 key centres, "San Francisco" has beaten "Mutiny" records, and those held by "China Seas", "Broadway Melody" and "Tugboat Annie".

As a star, Jeanette MacDonald is climbing fast; with box-office hits, one after the other, to her credit. A Hollywood interview, which I had with Miss MacDonald, at Culver City last year, revealed this star as one of the most beautiful and gifted girls in motion pictures. Clark Gable has made his name box-office by just being Clark Gable, that means being good to look at, magnetic and charming, in addition to being an artist.

As for Spencer Tracy, if what we hear is true, Tracy runs true to form in "San Francisco"; which means he runs away with some of the best scenes in "Frisco".

RAY PRESENTS

RAY LEWIS

A RECENT visitor to Toronto was Mr. H. J. Davis, managing director of Associated News Theatres, Ltd., and Monseigneur News Theatres Ltd., of London, England. Mr. Davis was accompanied by his wife and little daughter, Olga.

It was my privilege to show Mr. Davis, Toronto, and since Toronto took this particular time to put on the "hottest spell" ever on record, it somewhat limited the itinerary of inspection. However, Mr. Davis saw sufficient of Toronto, including a visit with Bob Eves at the Eglinton Theatre, to inspire him to exclaim, "I had no idea Toronto was such an important city, that Canadians lived in such beautiful homes. I had no conception Canada was so interesting, so vast, and that you possessed a lake-front and beach such as you have. A natural playground right at your doorstep. I am surprised that we do not get pictures of Canada showing the beauty of summer in Canada. All the pictures I have seen have been those depicting snow and winter sports. It is a mistake. We English, do not realize the importance of Canada, nor do we know very much about it. All I can say is, have we English been sleeping? Here is a country, a British Dominion worthy of the attention of the British investor".

An excerpt from a letter from an old English friend, Mr. K. A. Nyman, President of the Cinematograph Exhibitors Association, is as follows, "Dear Ray Lewis, I know you have the interests of the British Exhibitor in mind and a vivid understanding of his problems. It occurred to me, therefor, that you may find something of interest in the enclosed notes of my paper on "Redundancy, etc., etc."

MR. NYMAN gave one of the best speeches at the Cinematograph Exhibitors Annual Dinner, London, at which H.R.H. the Duke of Kent, was guest of honour.

Mr. Nyman's paper on "Redundancy" was read at the Eastbourne Conference, 1936, of the C.E.A., of Great Britain and Ireland, and, lest my readers do not understand a question which the astute Mr. Sam Eckman, manager of M-G-M London, England, said was "a vexed, perplexing and all-important subject", I explain that it has to do with "progress" and that "progress" has to do with the question of "over theatre-building", or "too many theatre seats" to be filled.

I have not had time to carefully peruse the paper on this subject, but it is one that I shall Digest for my own and your benefit.

In Great Britain theatre-building goes on apace, and in Canada, since the first of this year, 66 theatres were opened. These include new theatres, and houses in the dark.

THE Calgary Albertan, reaches me with news of the death of John J. Egen, "veteran railroad builder", who passed away in his 83rd year. "The last surviving member of the Egen brothers, railroad contractors, famous in pioneer railway work in the early west." The late John J. Egen is the father of Pete Egen, manager of the Palace Theatre, Calgary.

The career of the Egens in Canada makes an interesting story blending its history with that of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

The Digest extends its message of condolence to Mr. Pete Egen with whom his father resided for more than ten years in Calgary, and to the other members of the late Mr. John Egen's family.

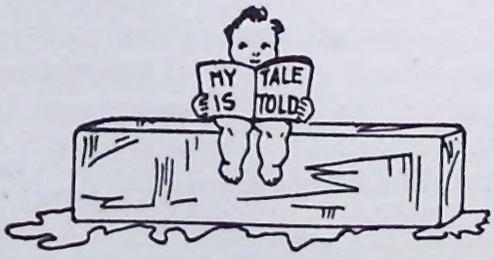
ANOTHER sad death recently, was the passing away of Ralph Sternberg, 15 years old, only son of Sam Sternberg, associated for many years with Messrs. Jules and J. J. Allen, and who is now holding an executive position with the B. & F. Circuit.

The Digest sends its message of sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Sternberg who are prostrated by the tragic loss of this fine boy.

I was very sorry to hear that Tom Daley of the Imperial had lost his one and only sister. Mr. Daley accompanied the body to St. John, for burial in the family plot. Miss Daley had been staying with her mother at Toronto, where Mr. Daley had brought her, hoping a change in climate would improve her health.

In talking to Mr. Daley, after his return from his sad journey, he asked me to thank all his friends, who had sent flowers and messages of sympathy. "I shall never forget the friends, who came to me with words of sympathy and offers of service. Walter Golding never left my side from the time I arrived at St. John, until I was ready to leave for Toronto, I shall not forget his kindness."

And now let us hope, "Death Takes a Holiday", and that we may only have occasion to write of the living.



Eight Pound Boy Born to Mrs. "Quints" Dionne

Reviews and Previews

Shea's Hippodrome - Manager Jerry Shea
"THE CASE AGAINST MRS. AMES"
A Walter Wanger Production
Running Time—85 Minutes

"Jay L."

WHEN Arthur Somers Roche died, that section of the literary world known as the detective fiction group, lost one of its most illustrious members. But more than that, the screen also lost one of its more successful authors. "Penthouse" (M-G-M), "Shadow of Doubt" (M-G-M), "Star of Midnight" (RKO Radio), and lastly "The Case Against Mrs. Ames" are a few of Roche's many engrossing yarns which were hits on the screen.

Most of the action of "The Case Against Mrs. Ames" takes place in a court room, where, as the picture opens, we see Hope Ames being tried for the murder of her husband. Matt Logan, ambitious and brilliant D.A., almost fanatical in his conviction that Hope is the murderer, is prosecuting her with all the fervour and power at his command. When the beautiful Hope is allowed to make her appeal in person, to the jury, she so wins the "twelve tried and true citizens" over to her side, that she is quickly acquitted.

LOGAN, infuriated, delivers a scathing denunciation of the jury, and is arrested for contempt of court. Hope's mother-in-law, Mrs. Livingston Ames, takes custody of Hope's little son, and poisons his mind against his mother, by telling him that she killed his father. Hope bails out Logan, and engages him to find the murderer of her husband, in spite of the fact that he still believes her guilty.

In the meantime Hope fights for the custody of her son, and when her lawyer proves himself a paid hand of her mother-in-law, Hope proceeds to act as her own counsel. In a smashing conclusion, Matt unmasks the real murderer of Hope's husband, the mother-in-law loses the custody of the child, and Matt and Hope Ames declare their love for each other.

With a picture of this type, where so much of the action takes place in a single room, there is usually a tendency for the picture to drag monotonously. Thanks to the genius of Walter Wanger, and the efforts of William Seiter, the director, there is a total absence of such monotony in "The Case Against Mrs. Ames". The picture follows an even pace, gradually building up to the climax at the end.

ACTING honours are shared by Madeleine Carroll, lovely English star, and George Brent. Miss Carroll does some fine work as Hope Ames, and her performance should gain her a host of new fans on this continent. George Brent gives one of his very best performances as Matt Logan. Brent is rapidly becoming one of the most popular leading men among the coming stars, and it should not be long before we see signs which read "George Brent in . . . . "

Comedy relief is supplied by Arthur Treacher, who incidentally is soon to be seen as "Jeeves", P. G. Wodehouse's familiar comic character, Edward Brophy as a photographer, Alan Baxter as a reporter, and Richard Carle as Hope Ames' uncle. Beulah Bondi, well-known character actress, makes the role of Mrs. Livingston Ames a thoroughly detestable one, while Alan Mowbray is seen as the Livingston lawyer, and, as it is proven, the murderer. Scotty Beckett plays Hope's young son.

PERSONAL MUSINGS

THE deepest sympathy of this column and of the Editor are extended to Tom Daley, manager of the Imperial Theatre, Toronto, on the death of his sister, Pearl, on Thursday last.

It is always so hard to lose those we love, and especially so in Tom Daley's case, for his sister was only in her early thirties, and had so much to live for.

Once more, Tom, our sincere regrets, both from Miss Lewis and myself.

BOB EVES, "tall, dark and handsome" manager of the bee-yu-tiful Eglinton Theatre, crashes our column this week for his attractive programs, which are handed to patrons as they leave the house. A few weeks ago we gave considerable space to Walter Davis, of the Capitol, Regina, for his programs. In far too many houses nowadays, exhibitors seem to have the idea that anything like programs is a waste of money. We beg to differ with that argument, the public likes anything that's free, and if the program is attractively made up, and with a certain amount of interesting reading material, it is an investment, and not a waste. Besides, if your agents are any good at all, the advertising should more than pay for the cost of printing.

Bob's programs have an architect's drawing of the theatre front on the cover, together with some interesting facts about the Eglinton's system of air-conditioning which makes it possible for smoking in the loges. And from the number of ads, I doubt very much if Bob is losing any money on the deal.

Our thanks to Earl Wingart of 20th Century-Fox for the following story;

Stepin Fetchit, making up an upper berth in a Pullman car scene for "Across the Aisle", slipped and fell through a window onto the sound stage.

"Cut", yelled Director Eugene Forde.

"No, ah'm not", said Stepin, "but ah'm sho glad that train wan't movin'."

"Jay L."

Premier Hepburn Lifts Ban; "Pastures" to be Shown in Ontario

British Film Digest

Special to The Digest, from our London Correspondent, Denison Thornton.

MORE American stars than ever are expected to appear in British pictures this year. It is understood that Irving Thalberg is planning to come here shortly to prepare an M-G-M British production of "Marie Antoinette" starring Norma Shearer, and that the same company will produce four other films here including "Silas Marner", with Lionel Barrymore, "A Yank at Oxford", with Robert Montgomery, and "The Wind and the Rain", with Robert Taylor.

Luise Rainer and Brian Aherne are expected to co-star in the fourth M-G-M subject not yet chosen.

Other Hollywood stars for British films include Constance Bennett and Douglas Montgomery who are now making "Everything is Thunder" for G-B; Richard Arlen who had arrived to do "interiors" for the same company's Canadian epic, "The Great Barrier"; Dolores del Rio, who will appear in Criterion Films' "Accused"; and Sylvia Sidney, who will be in Alfred Hitchcock's "Sabotage".

Hollywood directors engaged include William K. Howard who will make "Elizabeth of England" for London Films; Gregory La Cava who has been signed by Criterion; and King Vidor who has "Joseph and His Brethren" to direct for Korda.

Another Irish Story

DUDLEY MURPHY, director of "Emperor Jones", "Sport Page" and "Ballet Mechanique", has arrived here full of enthusiasm for his future British production plans. He is busily engaged, at the moment, with preparations for the formation of his own production company, but before matters are finalized he will direct one picture for Criterion, the new producing organization of which Fairbanks, Jr., is head.

Murphy's Criterion opus will be "The Martyr", an Irish story by Liam O'Flaherty, author of "The Informer". A unit will leave for Ireland shortly for location scenes.

Dramatizing the Army

ONE of the most ambitious pictures ever planned in this country is now in course of preparation by Gaumont-British. It is a film dramatizing every aspect of British army life, from the training of recruits to active service. The Army Council has promised to give its very fullest co-operation in making the production the biggest mass spectacle in the history of motion pictures.

The producers do not intend to spare any expense, and arrangements have already been completed for the filming of scenes involving infantry, cavalry, artillery, engineers and mechanized forces. The story will deal with the adventures of a "tough" American of the James Cagney type who joins the British army. It will be directed by Raoul Walsh. One of the high-lights of the production will be a terrific battle between British forces and pirates in the Far East.

No decision has been made with regard to the title of the picture.

Lulu in Hollywood

UNIVERSAL'S "MY MAN GODFREY", produced and directed by Gregory LaCava. With William Powell, Carole Lombard, Alice Brady, Eugene Pallette, Gail Patrick, Mischa Auer, Alan Mowbray, Jean Dixon, Robert Light, Franklin Pangborn, Grady Sutton, Ed. Gargan, James Flavin, Pat Flaherty and Robert Perry. Simply proves that it is nice to be crazy. A feather-brained mother (Alice) has a Russian protege (Mischa) who attempts everything except climbing a tree — so the two daughters of the household, Carole and Gail, cannot be blamed for their eccentricities in finding amusement. While slumming for material for a charity fair, Carole finds Godfrey (William), likes his appearance and decides to install him in the home as butler. He not only buttles well, but proves to be one of the elite and cleverly saves the family from material misfortunes, but the story itself makes no nevermind. There is not a moment's let-down, it just seems as though there is something the matter inside the cranium of all the cast, and my but it's good for what ails you.

WARNER'S "PUBLIC ENEMY'S WIFE". Directed by Nick Grinde with Pat O'Brien, Margaret Lindsay, Robert Armstrong, Cesar Romero, Dick Foran, Joseph King, Richard Purcell, Addison Richards, Hal K. Dawson, Harry Hayden, Akan Bridges, Kenneth Harlen, Selmar Jackson and William Pawley. Is another "G Man get your man" film, with the honors easily going to Cesar Romero, as the bad man with a life term. Margaret, his wife, get out after her three year term, with Cesar swearing vengeance if she ever marries again. Pat as the G man tries to get information from her, but when Cesar escapes and tries to start a little war of his own, Pat protects the gal, stages a mock wedding, but it "takes"' and proves to be a real one.

PARAMOUNT'S "SPENDTHRIFT". A Walter Wanger production, directed by Raoul Walsh with Henry Fonda, Pat Paterson, Mary Brian, George Barbier, Edward Brophy, Richard Carle, J. M. Kerrigan, Spencer Charters, June Brewster, Halliwell Hobbes, Jerry Mandy, Greta Meyer, Miki Morita and Robert Strange. It's like the story of the soup, everything in it except the kitchen stove. Henry inherits lots of fine things, except money. And that is what it takes to carry on with the horses, and the rather expensive tastes, but Pat with a brogue from Olde Ireland itself, leads him in the right direction. With Kerrigan playing nursemaid to the horses, assisted by his dotter Pat, Mary as the southern girl trying to get places, and June fresh from Broadway and knowing all the answers, keep things humming. George as the crabby Uncle appears to have everything wrong with him, making life generally miserable for everyone. It's full of laughs.

Crowds Fill Air-Cooled Theatres, as Toronto Suffers Worst Heat Wave on Record